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Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the text of the joint statement by Mr. Hubert Vedrine, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Hubert Vedrine, French Minister for Foreign Affairs and Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary

(Paris, 10 April 2002)

The United Kingdom and France have followed closely the progress so far in the inter-Congolese political dialogue taking place in Sun City in South Africa. A successful inter-Congolese dialogue is fundamental to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the return to stability in the Great Lakes region. In this respect, we pay tribute to the work of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, as well as that of President Mbeki of South Africa.

However, the United Kingdom and France are concerned at the remaining obstacles to an agreement.

The United Kingdom and France call on the participants to reach the political compromise necessary for the establishment of a transitional government which will lead to democratic elections. We welcome the proposals put forward at Sun City on the sharing of power around President Kabila and hope that these will serve as the basis for an agreement.

The Congolese people are counting on such an agreement, as they look forward to the swift restoration of peace and the territorial integrity of their country. This would be a good signal on the eve of a United Nations Security Council mission to the region. The international community have invested a great deal politically and financially in this dialogue, but will not be able to continue their efforts if the participants do not demonstrate their will to reach a political agreement as soon as possible.